

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, September 8, 2005 – 1:00 p.m.

Chair Stamsta called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Duane Stamsta (Chair), Andy Kallin, Barbara Roncke, and Sandy Wolff. Jim Jeskewitz arrived at 1:37 p.m. and Bill Kramer arrived at 1:40 p.m. **Absent:** Rob Hutton.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Mark Mader, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Deputy Health & Human Services Director Don Maurer, Information Systems Manager Mike Biagioli, Collections & Business Services Manager Sean Sander, Children & Family Services Manager Jesus Mireles, Intake & Support Services Manager Antwayne Robertson, Long Term Care Manager Jack Bodien, Administrative Services Manager Russ Kutz, Public Health Manager Nancy Healy-Haney, and Clinical Services Manager Mike DeMares. Recorded by Mary Pedersen, Legislative Associate, County Board Office.

Chair's Executive Committee Report of 8-15 & 8-23

Stamsta advised the August 15th Executive Committee meeting was canceled and the committee, at their August 23rd meeting, met briefly to approve the appointment of April Medina to the Health & Human Services Board.

Announcements

Kallin said he spoke with an official in Mississippi who said relief and supplies due to Hurricane Katrina are adequate at this time. However, they will need additional relief in the next few months, particularly clothes, toys, and cash around Christmas time. He, in cooperation with others, has put together a drive to help accomplish this mission. Everything donated is tax deductible.

Schedule Next Meeting Dates

Stamsta advised the next meeting is scheduled for September 29th. Wolff said she would be unable to attend.

Update on Child Welfare Quality Service Review

Maurer said a federal review of all 50 states about two years ago resulted in each state receiving a failing grade with how they were running child welfare. For Wisconsin, a performance enhancement / improvement plan was written which outlines multiple issues that need to be addressed. Maurer said the state's design is vigorous and contractors will be brought in to review each county on an individual basis. New federal policies and standards have been proposed for child welfare services but no funding as of yet has been promised. The County's Health & Human Services Department as well as our court system is scheduled to be reviewed December 5th. The review will look at what barriers are out there and how to remove them. Maurer explained the review process in detail and said an official report will be available about 45 days after the review's completion. Schuler noted that ultimately, this could have a huge impact on the State's child welfare system.

Jeskewitz arrived at 1:37 p.m.

Review the 2006-2010 Capital Projects Plan as it Relates to Health & Human Services, Capital Projects #9, #48, and #50

Project #48 – Implement HHS Automated System

Biagioli said in 2006 they will focus on completing the interface for the SACWIS system and Health & Human Services' PeopleLink. It's hopeful this will be done in the 2nd quarter of 2006. The funding for this project, and over the last three years, we have submitted claims to the State for SACWIS matching funds which is 50 cents on the dollar. These reimbursement funds have been going into fund balance. Biagioli said they are not asking for new levy dollars and they will allocate fund balance dollars to complete Phase II of this project. They are currently doing a complete analysis of automation requirements for Health & Human Services. He expects this report to be available in October. All future initiatives will be based on the report.

Kramer arrived at 1:40 p.m.

Stamsta asked exactly what will be done next year? Biagioli said they will complete Phase II of the PeopleLink / SACWIS interface. Those pieces that remain to be completed are the avatar PM module interface into our automated systems. Finishing work needs to be done to make sure avatar PM links with the Collections Division. Regarding avatar PM, Biagioli said they are 99.8% complete in issuing family statements.

Project #50 – Upgrade Collections (CUBS) System

Sander indicated this is basically an upgrade to the current system. He said the payback on this will be huge and the backlog, once caught up, will no longer be an issue. Currently, staff spend a lot of time manually processing human services referrals. For those accounts in the new avatar system, they want to build an electronic interface whereby referrals are forwarded from Health & Human Services to Collections automatically. This project includes \$40,000 which is being paid for out of Collections fund balance.

Project #9 – Health & Human Services Building

Schuler said this is essentially the beginning of the planning for a new Health & Human Services building. This would replace the current human services building, built in 1911, the Public Health Center, and the Senior Services Department's offices in the Administration Center. Two sites are under consideration: land opposite the Mental Health Center and the existing site of the current building. Schuler has advocated for the current site which he explained further. He also spoke in support of housing each of these agencies in one building. The current building was rehabbed in 1996 at a cost of \$1,275,000 which was anticipated to extend the life of the building 10 to 15 years. That timeframe has been reached. Mader said it was important to pursue a cost / benefit analysis of the current building during the study and also determine what should be done with the current building. The expenditure budget for this project is listed at \$20,426,000 which includes design, construction, contingency, equipment, and demolition.

The Executive Committee has oversight of all capital projects and they will be discussing these and all other projects in length at their meetings of September 12th and 14th.

Update on the Health & Human Services Department's 2005 Departmental Objectives

Schuler, Maurer, Healy-Haney, Kutz, Robertson, Bodien, Mireles, and DeMares were present to give an update on each of their division's 2005 departmental objectives as outlined in the adopted 2005 budget book. In Adolescent & Family Services Manager Pat Voss' absence,

Maurer reviewed his division's objectives. No major red flags or concerns were raised during this discussion.

Ordinance 160-O-050: Create Capital Project 200512 – Mental Health Center Safety and Security Upgrades

Schuler discussed this issue as outlined in the ordinance which involves the creation of a new capital project due to a recent state / federal building inspection that has resulted in necessary repairs, safety, and security upgrades at the Mental Health Center. The work identified is estimated to cost about \$350,000. It includes firewalls, additional sprinklers and ventilation, negative pressure work, structural work, and electrical upgrades.

Schuler said there is a 45-day timeframe from the exit interview of August 22nd to complete the work. A favorable bid for some of the center's repairs was submitted by Hunzinger Corp. and approved by the Public Works Committee this morning. Mader noted the money for the Hunzinger contract will come out of existing funds and prior approval of this ordinance was not necessary.

Schuler advised some of the work to be done are new requirements that hospitals must meet, therefore, we're not the only ones who will be affected. He went on to state that grandfather clauses don't apply to hospital codes.

Schuler said another issue that will need to be addressed but is not part of this ordinance is food service at the Mental Health Center. The County will be required to implement a full-time food service manager to oversee meal preparation, delivery, service, quality, etc. Currently, our needs are being met by one of our nursing coordinators. She has a background in food service which was acceptable by State standards previously. We currently receive food under contract from the same vendor who supplies the jail. This project will require additional training, kitchen supplies, etc. DeMares is working with the Purchasing Division to find someone to fill this role which will be a contracted service if at all possible. If this project is not done, we have been told we will lose our Medicare funding and our license.

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Kramer to approve ordinance 160-O-050. Motion carried 6-0.

MOTION: Kramer moved, second by Kallin to adjourn at 4:13 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew J. Kallin
Secretary